



COLORADO

Department of Public Health & Environment

Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

Help WIC Work!

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) provides nutrition education, breastfeeding support, healthy food and other services to Colorado families. In order for your WIC program to continue, it must operate in a fair and honest way. In some instances stores and clients are cheating or abusing your program. They overcharge for WIC foods or exchange WIC benefits for cash and non-WIC foods.

Examples of fraud and abuse may include...

Clients who:

- Are attempting to exchange or sell WIC foods or benefits for cash or credit (including selling formula and/or food through online sites such as Craigslist, Facebook, etc.).
- Trying to obtain cash or credit by producing coupons and/or discount cards after the completion of the WIC transaction.
- Lie about income or family size when applying for WIC.
- Buy non-WIC food with WIC benefits.
- Trade WIC benefits for other items or cash.

Vendors who:

- Buy WIC benefits for cash.
- Accept WIC benefits for non-WIC food.
- Accept WIC benefits for credit.
- Overcharge for WIC food.
- Willfully misapplied, stolen, or fraudulently obtained Program funds.

What can the State do if we verify improper activities?:

- Seek restitution for any WIC benefits or monies received as a result of WIC program fraud/abuse.
- Impose a punishment that may result in disqualification from the WIC program.
- Make referrals to other public programs for investigation and/or possible criminal prosecution under state and federal law



